HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Memorandum

To: Memo to File

From: Dr. Bernard E. Trum

Date: October 13, 1977

I have visited a research facility (October 3, 1977) operated by the HSPH (Dr. Melvin W. First group representative) at Charlesgate West Research Facility, 6 Charlesgate West, Boston, Massachusetts 02115.

This group operated at the Boston City Hospital until recently and does research on effects of smoke inhalation. They use rats and pigeons almost exclusively, although a few rabbits were on hand.

The facility is a converted office and storage area and, although at the time of visit, was not satisfactory as an animal care facility, both from the standpoint of animal and human health and safety and efficiency of care, it could be made completely satisfactory.

The changes recommended were:

1. Improve ventilation in order to provide adequate air changes (10 to 12 per hour).

2. Do not recirculateanimal colony air. Make up air can be taken from the exhaust of space not used to house animals.

3. Although a single room for rats and a single room for pigeons may be adequate, the control of infectious diseases becomes more difficult. The space between racks must provide the protection that room dividers would ordinarily provide. If the rooms are crowded, an increase in infectious disease must be anticipated. For this reason, it would be preferable to divide the space into as many rooms as practical.

4. Inhalation apparati which were being used are not adequate for the control of disease. A method should be

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devised to sanitize or sterilize the equipment after use before it is used on other animals. If this is not practical, then the number tested on unsanitized equipment should be reduced to the smallest practical and a protocol of use drawn up and followed which will assure that the same equipment is always used on the same animals in the same order of use.

5. The floors should be repaired - the vinyl (tile) floor now in use is adequate provided broken tiles are replaced and the floors thoroughly cleaned and waxed. Dry cleaning of the floor is recommended with a routine disinfection schedule (weekly) followed.

6. Ceilings (tile) are satisfactory provided they are repaired and intact.

7. Walls are satisfactory provided they are intact. The wall-board surfaces do not need resurfacing. A cleanable, hard surface paint should be applied to other surfaces.

8. A rack and cage washer is needed to sanitize equipment to the degree necessary for the control of contagion. This implies the equipment to heat, pump and discharge water which may be adequate, but was not checked. For example, small two-inch sewer pipes below the point of connection, will cause a pressure back up through sinks and toilets above the point.

9. Racks may be hand washed and disinfected regularly without the rack washer, since they do not come in contact with the animals. Therefore, a cage washer would be satisfactory although not as convenient.

10. Storage space for food, bedding and supplies must be provided outside the animal rooms.

The Animal Resources Center (IIMS) will provide a review of plans and advise further regarding the operation of this facility, if requested.

The facility is now regarded as an "off-campus" operation and must comply with the rules for care of animals as approved by the Committee on Animals.

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Having been told of previous difficulties regarding animal health, I strongly recommend that arrangements be made to add a competent comparative or veterinary pathologist to this research facility group.

I must add a disclaimer to this report: The above recommendations, if followed, should result in a satisfactory facility for the research as indicated to me. It will be comparable to facilities on campus, but it will not, however, meet the rigid standards of the "Good Laboratory Practice Act" as required by the Food and Drug Administration.

Bernard F. Trum, D.V.M.

BFT/cs

cc: Dr. Melvin W. First ✓
Dr. Arthur L. Lage
Dr. Harry M. Glass
Col Edwin McMeen
Mr. Ralph H. Charlwood

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